



1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein the test sample is not cultured prior to  
2 contacting with the capture reagent.

1 11. The method of claim 1, wherein the capture reagent is immobilized on a  
2 solid support.

1 12. The method of claim 11, wherein the solid support is a microtiter dish.

1 13. The method of claim 11, wherein the capture reagent is immobilized on  
2 the solid support prior to contacting the capture reagent with the test sample.

1 14. The method of claim 1, wherein the method can detect *B. anthracis* at  
2 concentrations as low as about 10,000 cfu/ml.

1 15. The method of claim 14, wherein the method can detect *B. anthracis* at  
2 concentrations as low as about 5,000 cfu/ml.

1 16. The method of claim 15, wherein the method can detect *B. anthracis* at  
2 concentrations as low as about 1,800 cfu/ml.

1 17. The method of claim 1, wherein the detection of the surface array  
2 protein is performed by contacting the surface array protein with a detection reagent that can  
3 bind to the surface array protein.

1 18. The method of claim 17, wherein the detection reagent comprises an  
2 antibody which binds to surface array protein.

1 19. The method of claim 17, wherein the detection reagent binds to a  
2 different epitope of the surface array protein than does the capture reagent.

1 20. The method of claim 17, wherein the detection reagent comprises a  
2 detectable label.

1                    21. The method of claim 20, wherein the detectable label is selected from  
2 the group consisting of a radioactive label, a fluorophore, a dye, an enzyme, and a  
3 chemiluminescent label.

1                    22. A kit for detecting the presence or absence of *Bacillus anthracis* in a  
2 sample, the kit comprising:  
3                    a solid support upon which is immobilized a capture reagent that can  
4 bind to a surface array protein of *Bacillus anthracis*; and  
5                    a detection reagent which binds to the surface array protein.

1                    23. The kit of claim 22, wherein the solid support is a microtiter dish.

1                    24. The kit of claim 22, wherein the capture reagent is an antibody.

25. The kit of claim 24, wherein the antibody is a recombinant polyclonal  
antibody.

26. The kit of claim 24, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

27. The kit of claim 22, wherein the capture reagent is a mixture of  
monoclonal and polyclonal antibody preparations.

1                    28. The kit of claim 22, wherein the kit further comprises written  
2 instructions for using the kit to determine whether a test sample contains *B. anthracis*.

1                    29. The kit according to claim 22, wherein the kit further comprises a  
2 positive control that comprises a polypeptide that comprises an antigenic determinant of a *B.*  
3 *anthracis* surface array protein.

1                    30. The kit according to claim 29, wherein the surface array protein  
2 comprises an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

1                    31. A recombinant polyclonal antibody preparation that specifically binds to  
2 an antigenic determinant of a surface array protein of *Bacillus anthracis*.

1                    32. The recombinant polyclonal antibody preparation of claim 31, wherein  
2 the surface array protein comprises an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

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